

few months ago when I asked for a briefing from the Department of Justice and the Internal Revenue Service on these pending cases. I thought, Mr. Speaker, based on these hearings and so forth, that the meeting at my request was going to take 10 minutes and that the officials were going to come in and my question was: What is happening to the people who are caught in the middle of this? I thought they were going to come in and they would say, you know: Mr. ROSKAM, here is a list or whatever. We can't give you a list, but here is all disposed of.

No, no, no, no. An hour and a half later, at the end of this discussion, I turned to the Department of Justice officials, Mr. Speaker, and I said: I am more afraid of you now than when I started this meeting. Do you want to know why I am afraid of you? Because you are acting in a completely obtuse manner.

When I asked what happened to these people's money, the officials told me, Mr. Speaker, that the money had been absorbed into the Federal system. Let me repeat that. They said that the money had been absorbed into the Federal system—wrongly absorbed, but absorbed nevertheless. That this could come out of the mouth of someone who works for the Department of Justice I found to be completely absurd.

I asked a simple question: What happens if my constituents owe a tax liability, don't pay the tax liability, and spend the money on something else? What do you do to them? And I answered the question: What you do to them is you put a lien on their house and you put them in prison, that is what you do.

So don't you see, Mr. Speaker, what we are dealing with? We have got to get to this situation, and we have got to get to making sure that power is used appropriately and it is not abused. I think this legislation that, again, is bipartisan, comes forward and it says it strikes the right balance, and if there is an underlying bad act—that is, an illegal activity—there is no one that is going to find any comfort in this bill; however, for the innocent folks who are not abusing this, they will find great comfort.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, Congress has a chance to right a wrong in the law by passing this bill.

We always say that, in the U.S., you are innocent until proven guilty, but the civil asset forfeiture policies imposed by the Federal Government don't always reflect that basic premise.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill.

But let me be clear. While we are correcting an injustice in one area, this bill reminds us of the importance of a larger discussion on much-needed criminal justice reform.

I hope that this larger issue can also be tackled by this year's Congress.

Just like the Clyde family and the Hirsch family and the Sowers family, whom we named this bill for, far too many American families have seen the U.S. justice system not work on behalf of them. We need to address that issue of criminal justice reform in the same bipartisan way, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. ROSKAM and the entire Ways and Means Committee dealt with civil asset forfeiture.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how difficult it is to birth a calf. I am a boy from Woodside, Queens. I used to say we had no running water growing up where I came from. Well, we had running water in my home, but we didn't have any streams; we had no ponds, no lakes. The closest I got to the water—I want the violins to come out now—the closest I got to the water was Rockaway Beach in Queens. But my wife is from Montana, and she grew up on a ranch. She may certainly have an inclination how difficult that is.

But let me say, on behalf of the American people, we want to apologize—though it is not necessarily our place—for the entire Federal Government. We didn't impose this on the Clyde family or the Hirsch family or the Sowers family, but they do deserve an apology, not just from the IRS, but from the American people as well, all taxpayers.

But the Clyde family, the Hirsch family, and the Sowers family, I don't know where their families came from. I do not know their ethnicity. I do not know their political persuasion. I do not know what religion they practice, if any at all. But what I do know is they are American citizens, so they deserve to be treated with justice under the law.

In these particular cases, they sought justice and were denied it; and we are restoring that today with the passage of this bill, not only for them, but for all Americans who find themselves in this situation. For that, I am grateful for my friend from Illinois, for his tenacity; but I am also grateful for the tenacity of these families to not sit back and allow this to happen not only to themselves, but to potentially future victims. That is what their legacy will be. I hope their families are proud of what they have accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think Mr. CROWLEY made a great point, and that is there is a great temptation when the Federal Government comes after you—I would imagine, a great temptation—to cower to the intimidation. The government has a lot of power, and the government in this case figuratively reached out and grabbed these families by the throat and choked them and used power that was not correct to use against them, and it was unjust.

It would have been an easy thing for these families to just sit back and take it and so forth, but they didn't do that.

I think the fact that they didn't do that, Mr. Speaker, and they are willing to stand up and fight is a good foreshadowing of things to come. In other words, they told their story; Members of Congress heard their story, and we have been able to move and seek justice, not only changing underlying policies within the executive branch, but also changing an underlying statute.

The other body has introduced this, and I am hopeful that it will be considered in an expeditious manner.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his support and advocacy. I urge passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5523, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND) at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 670, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5785, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5690, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST FAIRNESS AND MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 670) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the Medicaid rules regarding supplemental needs trusts for Medicaid beneficiaries to trusts established by those beneficiaries, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 383, nays 22, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 521]

YEAS—383

Abraham	Cramer	Hartzler
Adams	Crawford	Hastings
Aderholt	Crenshaw	Heck (NV)
Aguilar	Crowley	Heck (WA)
Allen	Cuellar	Hensarling
Amash	Culberson	Herrera Beutler
Amodei	Cummings	Hice, Jody B.
Ashford	Curbelo (FL)	Higgins
Babin	Davis (CA)	Hill
Barletta	Davis, Danny	Himes
Barr	Davis, Rodney	Holding
Barton	DeFazio	Honda
Bass	DeGette	Hoyer
Beatty	Delaney	Hudson
Becerra	DeLauro	Huffman
Benishek	DelBene	Huizenga (MI)
Bera	Denham	Hultgren
Beyer	Dent	Hunter
Bilirakis	DeSantis	Hurd (TX)
Bishop (GA)	DeSaulnier	Hurt (VA)
Bishop (MI)	Deutch	Israel
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart	Issa
Black	Dingell	Jackson Lee
Blackburn	Doggett	Jeffries
Blum	Dold	Jenkins (KS)
Blumenauer	Donovan	Jenkins (WV)
Bost	Doyle, Michael	Johnson (GA)
Boyle, Brendan	F.	Johnson (OH)
F.	Duffy	Johnson, E. B.
Brady (PA)	Duncan (SC)	Jolly
Brady (TX)	Duncan (TN)	Jones
Brooks (IN)	Edwards	Joyce
Brown (FL)	Ellison	Katko
Brownley (CA)	Ellmers (NC)	Keating
Buchanan	Engel	Kelly (MS)
Bucshon	Eshoo	Kelly (PA)
Burgess	Esty	Kennedy
Bustos	Farenthold	Kildee
Butterfield	Farr	Kilmer
Byrne	Fitzpatrick	Kind
Calvert	Fleischmann	King (IA)
Capps	Flores	King (NY)
Capuano	Fortenberry	Kinzinger (IL)
Cárdenas	Foster	Kline
Carson (IN)	Fox	Knight
Carter (GA)	Frankel (FL)	Kuster
Carter (TX)	Frelinghuysen	LaHood
Cartwright	Fudge	LaMalfa
Castor (FL)	Gabbard	Lamborn
Castro (TX)	Gallego	Lance
Chabot	Garamendi	Langevin
Chaffetz	Garrett	Larsen (WA)
Chu, Judy	Gibbs	Larson (CT)
Cicilline	Gibson	Latta
Clark (MA)	Goodlatte	Lawrence
Clarke (NY)	Gowdy	Lee
Clawson (FL)	Graham	Levin
Clay	Granger	Lewis
Cleaver	Graves (GA)	Lieu, Ted
Clyburn	Graves (LA)	Lipinski
Coffman	Graves (MO)	LoBiondo
Cohen	Grayson	Loeb
Cole	Green, Al	Loeb
Collins (GA)	Green, Gene	Loudermilk
Collins (NY)	Griffith	Love
Comstock	Grijalva	Lowenthal
Conaway	Grothman	Lowe
Connolly	Guinta	Lucas
Conyers	Guthrie	Luetkemeyer
Cook	Hahn	Lujan Grisham
Cooper	Hanna	(NM)
Costa	Hardy	Luján, Ben Ray
Costello (PA)	Harper	(NM)
Courtney	Harris	Lynch

MacArthur	Pittenger	Smith (MO)
Maloney,	Pitts	Smith (NE)
Carolyn	Pocan	Smith (NJ)
Maloney, Sean	Poliquin	Smith (TX)
Marchant	Polis	Smith (WA)
Marino	Pompeo	Speier
Massie	Posey	Stefanik
Matsui	Price (NC)	Stewart
McCarthy	Price, Tom	Stivers
McCauley	Quigley	Swalwell (CA)
McCollum	Rangel	Takano
McDermott	Reed	Thompson (CA)
McGovern	Reichert	Thompson (MS)
McHenry	Renacci	Thompson (PA)
McKinley	Ribble	Thornberry
McMorris	Rice (NY)	Tiberi
Rodgers	Rice (SC)	Tipton
McNerney	Richmond	Titus
McSally	Rigell	Tonko
Meadows	Roby	Torres
Meehan	Roe (TN)	Trott
Meng	Rogers (AL)	Tsongas
Messer	Rogers (KY)	Turner
Mica	Rohrabacher	Upton
Miller (FL)	Rokita	Valadao
Moolenaar	Ros-Lehtinen	Van Hollen
Mooney (WV)	Roskam	Vargas
Moore	Ross	Veasey
Moulton	Rothfus	Vela
Mullin	Rouzer	Velázquez
Mulvaney	Roybal-Allard	Visclosky
Murphy (FL)	Royce	Walberg
Murphy (PA)	Ruiz	Walden
Nadler	Ruppersberger	Walker
Napolitano	Russell	Walorski
Neal	Sánchez, Linda	Walters, Mimi
Neugebauer	T.	Walz
Newhouse	Sarbanes	Waters, Maxine
Noem	Scalise	Watson Coleman
Nolan	Schakowsky	Weber (TX)
Norcross	Schiff	Webster (FL)
Nugent	Schweikert	Welch
Nunes	Scott (VA)	Wenstrup
O'Rourke	Scott, Austin	Westerman
Olson	Scott, David	Westmoreland
Palazzo	Sensenbrenner	Williams
Pallone	Serrano	Wilson (SC)
Pascrell	Sessions	Womack
Paulsen	Sewell (AL)	Woodall
Payne	Sherman	Yarmuth
Pearce	Shimkus	Yoder
Pelosi	Shuster	Yoho
Perlmutter	Simpson	Young (AK)
Peters	Sinema	Young (IA)
Peterson	Sires	Young (IN)
Pingree	Slaughter	Zeldin

NAYS—22

Brat	Gohmert
Bridenstine	Gosar
Brooks (AL)	Huelskamp
Buck	Jordan
Davidson	Labrador
DesJarlais	Lummis
Fleming	McClintock
Franks (AZ)	Palmer

NOT VOTING—26

Bonamici	Johnson, Sam	Rush
Boustany	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Carney	Kelly (IL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Duckworth	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Emmer (MN)	Long	Stutzman
Fincher	Meeke	Wagner
Forbes	Miller (MI)	Wasserman
Gutiérrez	Poe (TX)	Schultz
Hinojosa	Rooney (FL)	Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1853

Messrs. DAVIDSON, GOSAR, FLEMING, SALMON, DESJARLAIS, PERRY, WITTMAN, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. ZINKE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. YOHO and SCALISE changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING AN ANNUITY SUPPLEMENT FOR CERTAIN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5785) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 4, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 522]

YEAS—399

Abraham	Cole	Gabbard
Adams	Collins (GA)	Gallego
Aderholt	Collins (NY)	Garamendi
Aguilar	Comstock	Garrett
Allen	Conaway	Gibbs
Amodei	Connolly	Gibson
Ashford	Conyers	Gohmert
Babin	Cook	Goodlatte
Barletta	Cooper	Gosar
Barr	Costa	Gowdy
Barton	Costello (PA)	Graham
Bass	Courtney	Granger
Beatty	Cramer	Graves (GA)
Becerra	Crawford	Graves (LA)
Benishek	Crenshaw	Graves (MO)
Bera	Crowley	Grayson
Beyer	Cuellar	Green, Al
Bilirakis	Culberson	Green, Gene
Bishop (GA)	Cummings	Griffith
Bishop (MI)	Curbelo (FL)	Grijalva
Bishop (UT)	Davidson	Grothman
Black	Davis (CA)	Guinta
Blackburn	Davis, Danny	Guthrie
Blum	Davis, Rodney	Hahn
Blumenauer	DeFazio	Hanna
Bost	DeGette	Hardy
Boyle, Brendan	Delaney	Harper
F.	DeLauro	Harris
Brady (PA)	DelBene	Hartzler
Brady (TX)	Denham	Hastings
Brat	Dent	Heck (NV)
Bridenstine	DeSantis	Heck (WA)
Brooks (IN)	DeSaulnier	Hensarling
Brown (FL)	DesJarlais	Herrera Beutler
Brownley (CA)	Deutch	Hice, Jody B.
Buchanan	Diaz-Balart	Higgins
Buck	Dingell	Hill
Bucshon	Doggett	Himes
Burgess	Dold	Holding
Bustos	Donovan	Honda
Butterfield	Doyle, Michael	Hoyer
Byrne	F.	Hudson
Calvert	Duffy	Huelskamp
Capps	Duncan (SC)	Huffman
Capuano	Duncan (TN)	Huizenga (MI)
Cárdenas	Edwards	Hultgren
Carson (IN)	Ellison	Hunter
Carter (GA)	Ellmers (NC)	Hurd (TX)
Carter (TX)	Engel	Hurt (VA)
Cartwright	Eshoo	Israel
Castor (FL)	Esty	Issa
Castro (TX)	Farenthold	Jackson Lee
Chabot	Farr	Jeffries
Chaffetz	Fitzpatrick	Jenkins (KS)
Chu, Judy	Fleischmann	Jenkins (WV)
Cicilline	Fleming	Johnson (GA)
Clark (MA)	Flores	Johnson (OH)
Clarke (NY)	Fortenberry	Johnson, E. B.
Clawson (FL)	Foster	Jolly
Clay	Fox	Jones
Cleaver	Frankel (FL)	Jordan
Clyburn	Franks (AZ)	Joyce
Coffman	Frelinghuysen	Katko
Cohen	Fudge	Keating